

DECLARATION

OF

Several Baptized Believers, walking in all the Foundation Principles of the Doctrine of Christ, mentioned in *Heb. 6. 1, 2.*



Hereas there hath been a Paper lately Printed, and published, in the name of those the World falsely calls Anabaptists, wherein they conceived themselves concerned, to declare and publish something to the view of all men, by way of vindication of themselves, from those false Accusations, and Callumnies raised against them, as by their Declaration is manifested. Yet there being some things owned by them, (as appears unto us) much agreeing to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have thought it our duty to witness against them therein, as being not according to a Gospel Spirit, nor the mind of God, neither the consciences of all those whose names were set unto that Declaration.

And our Reasons for our thus declaring are;

1. For the satisfaction of those, who are much troubled at those things, as well as our selves, and do not Assent unto them therein.

2. Lest by that their Declaration, they may be a means to harden any in their way of falshood, and weaken the hearts and hands of such as are coming out of confusion, which might be done by their seeming too much to approve of a false Ministry, and their attributing of the word Baptisme to the Sprinkling of Infants.

3. Because we are upon the account of truth engaged to bear our Testimonies, (which we hope we shall do to the uttering of death) against that Babylonish Antichristian Worship still on foot, and endeavoured to be more exalted in these Nations. It standing directly against the true worship of God, and truth it self, whereunto once we were enslaved, and from which the Lord through his grace hath delivered us, and which we do believe, God will in Justice, and with Judgment, bring down and destroy.

4. Because to our grief and trouble, some especially of those persons, who put forth that declaration, are too much hardened through their adherence to that Antichristian Ministry, and therefore are looked upon by us, as Persons much corrupted both in Doctrine and Practice. Therefore though we do Assent in some things with them, in their Declaration, we do notwithstanding, judge it a duty incumbent on us, to manifest wherein we do Dissent from them.

And those particulars wherein we Dissent from them are,

1. Their owning the National Ministry, so as to stand by it and preserve it.

2. Their abridgment of Liberty of conscience to all sorts of Persons in these Nations, only *Episcopacy, Presbytery, or any other form of worship*, which is as we understand, any forme of worship the Magistrate shall set up in these Nations.

Now in the first place, as to their owning the National Ministry, to stand by it and to preserve it.

We do Judge, God hath abundantly made it manifest in these Nations according to his word, and that to the consciences of such Nations, who truly fear God. So do we look upon it to be Antichristian, having received its being, and maintenance from the flesh, and therefore we are forced against our consciences to maintain it, while we Judge it Babylonish; therefore we do in the presence of God, Angels, and Men, declare against it. But as for the Persons who are exercised in this Ministry, we do desire and shall endeavour their peace and well being as our own.

2. We do declare, That we would have a full and equall Liberty to be granted, (and that as the Gospel of the Gospel) to all Nations whatsoever, without Exception of one or other, in the matters of there conscience in the worshipping of God. For why should we not give unto another, that we would (in this case) enjoy our selves, or who is he that will Judge another mans conscience: to his own Master, let him stand or fall; if any corrupt, or unsound Doctrine, come into the Church, there is the law of Christ to deal with them by. But who have the Members thereof to do to Judge them that are without, surely when peace will be upon the Earth, every man shall serve his God, and the Saints shall walk in the name of the Lord their God, therefore our desire is, that God may have that glorious prerogative of Judging mens hearts, according to the Gospel of his Son.

3. We do declare, that we own Magistracy, to be an Ordinance of God, and it is our desire to manifest our subjection, and obedience, in all things civill and lawfull, to all Magistrates, whom God doth appoint, and set over us in these Nations, whose work is to be a terror to evil doers, and a praise unto them that do well; this we do declare, before the Lord, who will judge both quick and dead, as which they the ungodly Teachers, and Leaders of the People, who make it nothing now to speak lies of us, and render ungodly to the people, shall answer for all their ungodly deeds, and hard Speeches against us.

4. We do declare, that although we would have a Tolleration of men in their several worships; Yet we would not have a Tolleration of any miscarriages in any persons in Civill things, much less of our selves, but we do earnestly desire that all ungodly and evil behaviour against men, may be punished, by those who are Magistrates, who ought not to bear the sword in vain, and therefore according to the deservit, of the fact, of the offending persons.

That we have thought good to declare, to all the world, whereby they may see our desire is according to our prayers, for all them who dwell under them, we may live, a peaceable and quiet life in all godliness, and honesty, for we know the law is not made, for the righteous, but for the lawless and disobedient,

We hope by this Declaration, we have given no just offence, to Jew or Gentile, or the Church of God.

POST-SCRIPT.

That all men may know wherefore we have declared against the National Ministry, above others in this Nation, is from that sad experience we have of their cruel dealings with us in respect thereof, forcing of us against our consciences (as we have declared) to maintain them, which hath been often discovered, and is plain throughout the whole Nation; One instance instead of many which we at this time shall give you is the case of William Launce, and Nathaniel Allen, both Baptized persons, being persecuted with high threats two years for Testimony, by William Whitaker Priest of Maudslays Parish in Southwork, the suite having cost about threescore pounds, for maintenance two and forty shillings, and in other of fourteen, and now after all this charge and trouble, both the persons are liable of being cast into prison, the latter being a very poor man.

Henry Grier.

Thomas Helmes.

Thomas Leander.

William Miller.